

Saco Community  
Steering Committee Meeting  
February 27 at Saco Recreation

Present: Walter Buczacz, Joel Hersom, Bruce Martel, Karen Martel, Rachel Bolduc, Ron Bolduc, Michelle Hiltz, Polly Gosselin, Branka Tomic, Delke Tomic, Epona Savage. Absent: Martin Schindler, Peg Mills came in late.

Bruce Martel called the meeting to order at 6:32 pm

Treasurer's Report. No report available. Joel reported that all plots are rented, and that we received \$530 in December. Karen reported that the CLYNK balance is \$48.22.

It was agreed that the Annual Meeting will be at 6:00 pm on March 13, at the Koi Restaurant on Elm St. in Biddeford. Joel has reserved the space, and will let the restaurant know the time.

It was confirmed that the volunteer year starts on Dec. 1. Lin brought posters & flyers around, and her work will apply to the new year.

Garden Projects:

Finish lattice

Tidy shed and secure tools in a better way.

Compost bin bucket storage.

One raised bed of the accessible plot is leaning, and may need more soil. It has been rented for this year.

The status of completing the new plots is uncertain because of access before spring.

Old Business

Brochures and posters were distributed by Lin

Nominating Committee

Joel reported that he and Peg are reaching out for nominations. Rachel, Ron and Marty are not returning as officers for next year. Peg has expressed interest in being Chair, and if she is elected, we would need a Treasurer.

Walter agreed to be nominated for Member-at-Large

Michelle has agreed to be nominated for Recording Secretary

Karen has agreed to be nominated for Corresponding Secretary

Karen will coordinate with Peg about sending welcome letters via e-mail. Two renters don't have e-mail, in which case they will be sent the information via U.S. Mail.

Karen suggested that since this is our 10<sup>th</sup> year of operation, that we apply for the Portland Press Herald Source Award. Motion by Rachael, second by Joel that we apply for this award. The motion carried. Karen said she will complete the application, but will need some historical information about the Garden. Michelle, Joel and Peg can be resources for such information.

Karen said that the website has had 150 visits since it started in late November, with 69 visits in the past 30 days, and 20 in the past 7 days. She said that one person has subscribed to our blog and newsletter via the webpage information form, and that person has also signed up for our wait list. Karen has established a gardening education/information page, and will seek input for developing this. We can also post videos that we create on subjects such as composting.

Peg arrived at the meeting and distributed the minutes from the January meeting.

The Bylaw and Guidelines updates were presented by Bruce. Peg had numerous concerns about the proposed changes. She suggested keeping the Garden activities/education coordinator position, among other concerns. Joel was concerned about a section which addressed possible refunds. After lively debate, Karen made a motion that a sub-committee be formed to address any Bylaw and Guidelines updates. Joel seconded the motion. The motion carried. Bruce, Joel, Karen and Peg agreed to serve on the sub-committee, and Michelle is interested if the meeting is at a time that she can attend. March 7, 2019 was suggested as a possible date.

Peg pointed out that according to the current Bylaws, she would not be eligible to serve on the Nominating Committee, which is limited to Renters. Bruce made a motion with Peg second to change the Bylaws to reflect that renters and Garden officers may serve on the nominating committee. All voted in favor of the motion.

Rachel made a motion to approve the January minutes, Joel seconded the motion. All were in favor of approving the minutes.

Karen proposed that instead of a gift certificate as a door prize at the annual meeting, that we have a gift basket of gardening items. A motion was made by Peg, seconded by Joel, that we spend \$25.00 for such a door prize. The motion passed. Karen said she would purchase the items at Reny's.

Peg thanked the Bolducs for serving on the Garden Steering Committee. All concurred with the sentiment.

The next meeting will be the Annual Meeting, and will include the election of officers, on March 13, 6:00 pm at the Koi Restaurant on Elm St. in Biddeford.

The meeting adjourned at 7:48

Respectfully submitted by Karen Martel, Recording Secretary